

FOLKWAYS

the mores which makes indecency and produces harm, for that difference, if disregarded, is immorality.

456. The stipsensoritum. The device known as the suspensorium, represented by von den Steinen,¹ is obviously invented solely for the convenience of males in activity. It is not planned for concealment and does not conceal. By a development of the device it becomes a case, made of leaf, wood, bone, clay, shell, leather, bamboo, cloth, gourd, metal, or reed. It is met with all over the world.² Perhaps its existence in ancient Egypt is proved.³ In almost every case, but not always, there is great disinclination to remove it, or part with it, or to be seen without it. The sentiment attaches only to the part which is covered by the apparatus. To be seen without it would do harm to the man. Women wear a pubic shield, held in place by a string. The conjecture immediately suggests itself that the girdle or string about the loins was anterior to any covering for the genitals. This conjecture is confirmed by the cases in which the girdle is used to cover the umbilicus, while nothing else is covered, for which there is a reason on account of the connection of the umbilicus with birth, life, and ancestry.⁴ The primitive notion about the genitals is that they are the seat of involuntary phenomena which are to be referred to superior agents. Hence, more than any other part of the body, they are daimonic and sacred (mystery, passion, reproduction). This notion is an independent cause of rules about the organs, and of superstitious ways in reference to them, including concealment.⁵ Waitz recognized in this idea the reason for covering the organ, or the part of it which was believed to be efficient. "Perhaps/" he

says, "we stand here at the first stage of human clothing," —
a suggestion which deserves more attention than it has received.⁶

¹ *BerL Mus.*, 1888, 431; cf. 191, 192, 195; also *Globus*, LXXV, 6; Ratzel, *Volkerkunde*, I, 225, 298; *BerL Mus.*, II, Plates II, III, XIII, XIV; Hutchinson, *Living Races*, 59; *Jhrb. d. Dtschen Archeolog. Instit.*, 1886, 295.

² Waitz (*Anthrop.*, VI, 567 ft.) gives a number of cases from the islands of the Pacific.

⁸ *Globus*, LXXIX, 197.

* Krieger, *Neu Guinea*, 373.

⁶ No ethnographic evidence is known to exist to prove that there is an original sentiment of disgust in regard to the organs (Ellis, "Evolution of Modesty," *PsychoL Rev.*, VI, 134).

6 *Jnthrot.*, VI, 575-576.